

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00774 01 OF 02 171806Z

70

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SAB-01 SCCT-01 AID-05 EUR-12 /083 W

----- 072311

R 171702Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2401

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

?AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 5524

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 0774

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR LE

SUBJ: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN SENATOR PERCY AND LEBANESE
GUESTS AT AMBASSADOR'S DINNER

1. EVENING JANUARY 16, SAW FRUITFUL AND INTERESTING
EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON AREA SITUATION BETWEEN SENATOR

PERCY AND LEBANESE GUESTS AT DINNER GIVEN PERCY'S HONOR
BY AMBASSADOR. GUEST AT DINNER REPRESENTED VARIOUS COM-
MUNITIES IN LEBANON INCLUDING PALESTINIAN. PRIN-
CIPAL LEBANESE SPOKESMEN WERE FORMER PRESIDENT CHAMOUN,
EX PRIME MINISTER SAEB SALEM AND LEBANON'S ELDER
STATESMAN CHARLES MALEK. THRUST OF EXCHANGE WAS
IMPORTANCE OF GRASPING QUICKLY CURRENT OPPORTUNITY FOR
PEACE TO AVOID DISASTER FOR ALL WHICH FAILURE TO DO SO
WOULD BRING ABOUT.

2. AMBASSADOR BEGAN EXCHANGE BY PROPOSING TOASTS TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 00774 01 OF 02 171806Z

HONORED GUESTS AND FOR PEACE IN THE AREA. HE EMPHASIZED

USG'S ONGOING EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE JUST PEACE IN ME AND EXPRESSED PERSONAL OPTIMISM THAT DESPITE ENORMOUS DIFFICULTIES THIS WOULD BE OBTAINED. HE NOTED INCREASING RECOGNITION BY ALL PARTIES CONCERNED WITH ME CONFLICT OF IMPORTANCE OF FINDING JUST SOLUTION OF PALESTINIAN ISSUE.

3. IN REPLY, SENATOR PERCY EXPLAINED THAT AS MEMBER SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE'S SUBCOMMITTEE FOR MIDDLE EAST, HE WAS MAKING STUDY TOUR OF AREA WHICH INCLUDED OIL PRODUCING STATES AND THOSE COUNTRIES DIRECTLY INVOLVED WITH PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN IMPRESSED WITH DESIRE FOR PEACE IN ALL COUNTRIES WHICH HE HAD VISITED AND WITH MODERATION DISPLAYED BY THOSE WITH WHOM HE HAD TALKED INCLUDING PALESTINIANS. HE WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH SADAT WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS PROFOUND, MODERATE AND COURAGEOUS STATESMAN. SADAT HAD BORNE DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE OF BURDEN OF AREA CONFLICT AND DESPERATELY NEEDED MORE HELP FROM OTHERS. SENATOR HAD INTER ALIA SUGGESTED TO SAUDIS NECESSITY INCREASING GREATLY FINANCIAL AID SAUDIS WERE GIVING EGYPT. AS RESULT HIS TOUR, SENATOR SAID HE HAD CLEARER PERCEPTION AREA PROBLEMS AND MORE SENSITIVE APPRECIATION OF PROBLEMS FACED BY INDIVIDUAL STATES CONCERNED. HE DID BELIEVE MOMENTUM OF STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH SHOULD BE QUICKENED BUT HE EMPHASIZED ENERGETIC AND PERSISTENT EFFORTS BEING MADE BY SECRETARY AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF U.S.G. TO RESOLVE WHAT WAS TOP PRIORITY INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ISSUE FOR U.S.G. HE ADDED THAT OUR EFFORTS SHOULD BE ASSISTED BY STRONGER EFFORTS BY ARAB MODERATES.

4. CONCERNING U.S. CONGRESS, HE CONSIDERED CHANGE TAKING PLACE TOWARDS MORE BALANCED APPROACH TO ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM. NO QUESTION THAT HE PERSONALLY AND USG STRONGLY SUPPORTED MAINTENANCE ISRAELI SECURITY BUT SUCH DID NOT IMPLY SUPPORT ALL ISRAELI POLICIES OR ACTIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, SENATOR WAS ALMOST CERTAIN U.S. CONGRESS WOULD NOT SUPPORT ISRAELI PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE AGAINST ARABS BUT AT THE SAME TIME NEITHER WOULD US STAND ALONE IF ARABS CHOSE TO MOUNT STRIKE AGAINST ISRAELIS. WITHOUT SPECIFICALLY SUPPORTING PALESTINIAN STATE CONCEPT, HE DID

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 00774 01 OF 02 171806Z

NOTE THAT ISRAELIS OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD APPRECIATE FEELINGS OF ANOTHER PEOPLE WHO WISH TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMELAND. IN CLOSING, HE NOTED THAT SOME AMERICANS WERE CONCERNED THAT A PALESTINIAN STATE WOULD BE RADICAL AND CREATE PROBLEM FOR ITS ISRAELI NEIGHBOR. WHAT WAS ASSEMBLY'S VIEWS THIS POINT?

5. IN PARTIAL REPLY PRESIDENT CHAMOUN STRESSED DESIRE FOR

PEACE BY ARABS BUT NOTED THAT ONE OF THE MAIN PROBLEMS TO SETTLEMENT SO FAR HAD BEEN ISRAELI AND ZIONIST INFLUENCE ON U.S. POLICY. HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY SENATOR'S REMARKS IN THIS REGARD. OPERATIVE WORD IN ANY PEACE SETTLEMENT, ACCORDING CHAMOUN, WAS JUSTICE. IF JUST PEACE WERE ACHIEVED, THIS WOULD HAVE LASTING BENEFIT FOR AREA.

6. IN FULLER REPLY FORMER PRIME MINISTER SAEED SALAM EMPHASIZED NECESSITY OF GRASPING PRESENT OPPORTUNITY FOR PEACE BECAUSE IT WOULD BE LONG TIME BEFORE SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY AROSE AGAIN. THE UNITED STATES MUST SUPPORT EFFORTS OF MODERATES TO BRING SUCH A PEACE ABOUT AS FAILURE TO OBTAIN PEACE NOW WOULD BE CATASTROPHIC FOR ALL CONCERNED. HE CONCURRED WITH SENATOR THAT MAJORITY OF REASONABLE ARABS WANTED PEACE, INCLUDING ARAFAT WHO WAS WILLING TO SETTLE PROBLEM ON REASONABLE TERMS BUT COULD NOT SAY SO PUBLICLY BEFORE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00774 02 OF 02 180917Z

15

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SAB-01 SCCT-01 AID-05 EUR-12 /083 W

----- 082512

R 171702Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2402

INFO AMEMBASSY AOMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAOASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 0774/2

STARTED. SALAM MAINTAINED THAT ARAFAT'S NEW YORK SPEECH WAS MEANT TO BE MODERATE, THAT HE COULD NOT HAVE SAID ANYTHING LESS WITHOUT LOSING CONTROL OVER MORE RADICAL

MEMBERS OF PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT. HE ADMITTED ARABS HAD MADE THEIR SHARE OF MISTAKES OVER PAST BUT FELT THAT U.S. ON ITS SIDE HAD NOT LIVED UP TO ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AS A GREAT POWER IN ITS EFFORTS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM.

CRUCIAL ISSUE AT MOMENT WAS WHAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT COULD DO IN FACE OF THE POLITICAL PRESSURES UPON IT AND SAID HE WAS GREATLY REASSURED IN THIS RESPECT BY SENATOR'S REMARKS. TOWARDS END HIS REMARKS, SALAM SOMEWHAT RHETORICALLY SUGGESTED TO THE SENATOR THAT USG STOP MAKING "THREATS." IN REPLY PERCY'S QUESTION AS TO POLITICAL CHARACTER OF A PALESTINIAN STATE ON WEST BANK, SALAM THOUGHT THAT SUCH STATE WOULD BE SO BESET WITH PROBLEMS OF CREATION THAT IT WOULD NOT HAVE TIME TO CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR ISRAELIS. HE THEN TURNED QUESTION AROUND AND ASKED SENATOR WHAT GUARANTEES ARABS HAD THAT ISRAELIS IN SUCH EVENTUALITY WOULD NOT CAUSE TROUBLES FOR CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 00774 02 OF 02 180917Z

NEWLY FOUND STATE OR FOR OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES.

6. CONCLUDING REMARKS MADE BY DR. CHARLES MALEK. AFTER AGREEING WITH MOST OF WHAT HAD BEEN SAID BEFORE, DR. HALEK MADE THREE POINTS. THE FIRST WAS THAT TIME WAS RUNNING OUT FOR A SETTLEMENT. IF THE MODERATES WERE NOT SUPPORTED NOW AND PEACE ACHIEVED, WE WOULD BE FACING FAR MORE RADICAL AND UNREASONABLE GOVERNMENTS IN

THE AREA THAN WAS NOW THE CASE. SECONDLY, DR. MALEK COULD

NOT ENVISAGE PEACE BEING ACHIEVED WITH EGYPT SLIPPING BACK INTO CHAOS BECAUSE OF LACK OF SUPPORT IN CONFRONTING ENORMOUS INTERNAL PROBLEMS WHICH IT HAD BEEN AND WAS

CONTINUING TO FACE. HE CONSIDERED IT OF PRIME IMPORTANCE THAT INCREASED ASSISTANCE BE GIVEN TO SADAT WHO WAS ONE OF MOST COURAGEOUS ARAB STATESMEN TO ENABLE HIM DEAL MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH PROBLEMS AT HAND. HIS THIRD POINT WAS THAT TO LARGE EXTENT QUESTION OF WHETHER WE HAD PEACE OR DID NOT WAS UP TO UNITED STATES. COULD UNITED STATES IN FACE POLITICAL PROBLEMS AT HOME TAKE MEASURES NECESSARY TO PERSUADE ISRAELIS TO ADOPT REASONABLE NEGOTIATING POSITION WHICH WOULD ENABLE CONCLUSION JUST SETTLEMENT? IN OTHER WORDS, DID WE HAVE SUFFICIENT CONTROL OVER OUR MIDDLE EAST POLICY TO PROTECT OUR OWN SELF INTEREST IN THE AREA?

7. COMMENT: ABOVE EXCHANGES TOOK PLACE IN FRIENDLY, UNEMOTIONAL BUT CONCERNED ATMOSPHERE. GROUP WAS OBVIOUSLY REASSURED BY SENATOR PERCY'S DEPICTION OF A MORE CONCERNED AND A SOMEWHAT MORE OBJECTIVE US CONGRESS. SAEB

SALAM TOLD DCM JANUARY 17, HE WAS GREATLY IMPRESSED
BY SENATOR'S SINCERITY AND CONCERN FOR PROBLEM AND
FORTHRIGHT WAY IN WHICH HE STATED HIS VIEWS AND
ENCOURAGED BY CONTENT SENATOR'S REMARKS.
GODLEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CODELS, POLITICAL SITUATION, PEACE TALKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRUT00774
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750020-0401
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750144/aaaabmdf.tel
Line Count: 228
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN SENATOR PERCY AND LEBANESE GUESTS AT AMBASSADOR'S DINNER
TAGS: PFOR, LE, (PERCY, CHARLES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006